









People who refuse to advertise to the public what specialties they keep must expect to be left behind and to pay dearly for their penny-wise and pound-foolish policy.

The Mandalay-Kunlon Railway is being rapidly pushed ahead, says the *Bangkok Times*. With the sanction of the military authorities, Mr. Bagley has now added the last Madras Pioneer to his staff, and the regiment has begun work on the line.

The 'food supply' of Singapore for 1895, as gauged by the work done in the Municipal Abattoir, consisted of 55,540 pigs, 20,640 sheep, 7,332 goats, 9,634 bullocks, 826 buffaloes, a total of 133,232 animals. The fees collected on these animals amounted to \$41,934.—*Free Press*.

The Singapore *Free Press* of the 18th inst. says:—Mr. E. Orniston, of the Mercantile Bank, went by the mail to Oahu, having been transferred to Hongkong. Mr. Orniston carries with him many hearty good wishes from Singapore, particularly from the *Free Press*, the place, with which interests he has closely identified himself.

The position of manager and representative of the Singapore Gas Company in Singapore, vacant by the resignation of Mr. H. W. Smith, who retires from business this year, has been filled by the appointment of Mr. Ford, late of Santos, Brazil. Mr. Ford is expected to arrive in Singapore by the P. & O. s.s. *Centon*, and Mr. Smith will hand over the management of the Company to him at the end of March.—*Singapore Free Press*.

The Coal Company of East Borneo had lately issued a loan of £120,000, of which £1,50,000 were taken up. Suddenly a telegram was received from India stating that the balance of the loan was entirely taken, and this was reason to believe that the company for petroleum must have had a favourable result.—*Singapore Free Press*.

The B.S. *Manila* (late *Ozama*) owned by Mr. J. A. Shooklin of Oahu, which has been running to Formosa, ran on a sunken reef off the port of Tamsui on the afternoon of the 11th inst. The ship made water rapidly and when the message was despatched there were twelve feet of water in the hold. The ship is insured in the Imperial Marine Insurance Company for £50,000. The *Ozama* is our authority for this news.—*Kobe Herald*.

The Russian warship *Emperor Nicola*, another cruiser and two torpedo boats are at Nagasaki, where other foreign warships were also at anchor when the U.S. *Delicat* died on the 19th Feb. Recently, the French cruiser *Forfait*, the U.S.S. *Glynn*, *Yaroslav*, *Concord* and *Charleston*. The latter has got her new piston and is ready to go to sea again. It was a very striking sight to see the four British warships *Edgar*, *Pyre*, *Rainbow* and *Spur* steam out in a line, followed by the Russian *Pemil*, *Arzo*, *Nakhimov*, *Mandarin* and *Kreyler*, all with the exception of the *Spur*, which came on to Shanghai, bound for the troubled 'Land of Morning Calm.'

On the afternoon of the 13th inst., Mr. J. P. Pinn, for many years Sub-editor and Manager of the *Japan Herald* died in his room at the Yokohama Club from a stroke of apoplexy. There had not been any premonitory symptoms, so far as we can learn, and as the deceased was only 38 and had been in the best of health, the cause up to the preceding night, his death must be described as a terrible accident. Mr. Pinn was a universal favourite. Unfailing good nature and perpetual helpfulness were his distinguishing traits. In everything connected with this settlement he took the keenest interest, and his services, hearty and untiring, were always at the disposal of any public undertaking. Not many men so genuine, so benevolent, and so unselfish are to be found. The void he leaves in this community will long be palpable.—*Japan Mail*.

W. Robinson & Co. have 150 Pianos for Hire on Monthly Payments, also Pianos returned from Hire cheap.

## REUTERS TELEGRAMS.

(SUPPLIED TO THE 'CHINA MAIL'.)

LONDON, Feb. 25, 1896.

## DR JAMESON AND OFFICERS CHARGED AT BOW STREET.

Dr Jameson and his officers were secretly landed at Purfleet, and conveyed by a circuitous route to Bow Street, where they were charged with having led a military expedition against a friendly State. The case was adjourned for a fortnight, the accused being allowed bail of £2,000 each.

During the course of the hearing, Sir John Bridge, the Magistrate, sternly rebuked some cheering which occurred in Court as tending to bring England into disrepute. He laid stress on the extreme gravity of the case, and warned the prisoners to discretely in their behaviour during the adjournment.

The Law Officers of the Crown will prosecute.

(From *Tonkin Papers*).

## THE POLITICAL SITUATION.

Paris, Feb. 19.

The political situation is unchanged, but the tension is accentuated.

## THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.

Paris, Feb. 20.

In the Chamber, Mr. Chaudey has questioned the Ministers on the Southern Railway affair.

Paris, Feb. 21.

The Chamber, after a lively debate, has renewed its vote of confidence in the Government by 309 votes to 85.

## 'THE HERO OF MADAGASCAR.'

Paris, Feb. 20.

General Duvauché has arrived at Mar. sailles, and has been received with acclamations.

All those in favor of war with England say 'Aye,' thundered the members of the *Tricolore Club*. 'All who are ready to go to the front in the event of war say 'Aye.' It was so still you could hear a cough drop.

W. Robinson & Co.'s Pianos are guaranteed for the climate. Pianos Repeated equal to new.

## AN EMINENT ARTIST IN HONGKONG.

ARTISTIC POSSIBILITIES OF JAPANESE AND CHINESE LIFE.

To those who follow closely the artistic life of the metropolis, and to many who lay claim to nothing more than a faint interest in the beautiful arts, the name of Mr. Mortimer Menpes is familiar, both as an artist and a crack rifle shot, and taking advantage of his visit to this Colony a representative of the *China Mail* called upon him and had an interesting chat with him about his present mission to the Far East. An Australian, and possessing perhaps rather more of the wandering disposition than the average artist, Mr. Menpes has gone far afield for subjects for his facile pencil. Periodically he takes his flight from the centre of inspiration, occasionally hitting himself in the semi-obscure and certainly semi-civilized parts of the earth, and returns to London with gems of the purest ray culled from nature's inexhaustible mine.

Asked what was the object of his present trip, Mr. Menpes replied: 'I am going to Japan to prepare for an exhibition at Dowdswell's in Bond Street, where I have always given my exhibitions. Last year I exhibited my pictures of Mexican life; my next exhibition I propose to make representative of the artistic side of nature in the Far East, chiefly of Japan.'

'Have you visited Japan before?'

'Oh, yes,' replied Mr. Menpes. 'I was in Japan some years ago. I am going there this time to obtain impressions of the gay, bright, living Japan—its spring blossoms and child life. My Mexican exhibition consisted in the main of night scenes—sombre, Rembrandt effects. My next exhibition I intend as a contrast; it will be bright, luminous and gay—full of sunshine and blossom and exuberant young life. Some people ridicule the idea of travelling in quest of subjects illustrative of one predominant effect, but I like to work in this way. I feel that I want to paint a particular quality of work, and I go to the country where I believe I can get the best motifs. Technically speaking, I had gone to Mexico for the jewel-like quality—renewed, decorative, redundant; in Japan, I shall get more of the airy, gossamer, pastel-like work.'

'You have travelled a good deal, I believe, in search of subjects?'

'Yes; I know Japan very well. I have also had exhibitions of India, Burma, and Cashmere; Venice; France, Spain, and Morocco; Egypt; and, last of all, Mexico. I expect to be in Japan six months.'

'You say you always exhibit at Dowdswell's. Do you mean that you dispose of your pictures through dealers—always?'

'Always. My experience of the dealer is not the conventional one of the novel and the comic paper. I have a very different story to tell from many painters, who feel that they are badly treated. I have been exceedingly well treated, so much so, that I have stuck to the Dowdswells, and I suppose we may take it they are as well pleased with their success in selling my pictures. They have sold everything; I myself have never sold a picture. I could not do it. If a picture is admired I feel I could not lose the privilege of giving it away. Perhaps the size of my pictures has something to do with their ready purchase. Nowadays there are in England many people, many lovers of art, whose residences are not at all adequate to the large canvases painted by some of our artists. We artists must accommodate ourselves to the requirements of the times. My pictures are always small. I have generally painted in oils, but at my next exhibition I will have many water-colours. I think that will best suit the quality of work I propose to undertake.'

In reply to the query if he had had any adventures in the course of his sketching journey, Mr. Menpes said: 'In Mexico I had many. The greater part of my stay there was spent at Tehuantepec in South Mexico, just north of Panama. This little village is the headquarters of the Zapotecos, an ancient aboriginal race quite distinct from the Aztecs. It is a curious fact that the Zapotecos were never conquered by the powerful Aztecs, nor by the Spaniards, but were brought over by Cortez. The women have wonderfully fine figures, and a superb carriage which they owe to carrying enormous burdens on their heads. In my opinion they are the finest race of women in the world. The native market is a curious sight, and provided me with several pictures. In the huge market place you may see a thousand women, and not one man. No native man is allowed into the market. All the buying and selling is done by the women. The men remain at work in the fields, and consider it effeminate to buy and sell in the market.'

'I suppose there is not much in Hongkong to appeal to your artistic feeling?'

'On the contrary,' replied Mr. Menpes; 'I see pictures all around—in the Chinese quarters, in the streets, everywhere. Squalor and dirt have their artistic properties. For instance, look into one of your humble shops interiors, and you see a dozen ivory-coloured men at work. They are only rice-peddlers, but they have a superb colour. A walk through the streets is quite stimulating. Your magnificent harbour, your Happy Valley, your mountain views do not appeal to me; they are unique, but not necessarily artistic. But the street life, the shops, the signboards in relation to the surroundings, the grouping of figures—these things are decorative and form excellent subjects for pictures. At the Rue Moutier I was struck with the Chinese crowd. It was a

striking contrast. It is extraordinary how the mass of predominant blue—light blue—lood out in contrast with the heavy, leaden mass of Europeans. To my mind it was more decorative than the ordinary English occurrence. On my way back from Japan, I propose to stay some time at Shanghai and Hongkong to prepare a series of sketches of the rivers, and especially the home life of the boats. What impresses me most in Hongkong is the life on the boats; I could work here for years without exhausting it. Although I do landscapes as well, I prefer street scenes. Mountain scenery interests me more from the romantic, not from the artistic standpoint. I do not feel that I want to paint it. I have no artistic craving after Switzerland, for instance.'

Mr. Menpes, who is gifted with the power of picturesque narration, related many interesting incidents from his experiences, besides giving his views on various artistic topics. It would be easy to fill columns of his early association with Whistler, of his gradual divorce from the influence of the ultra-impressionist school, of his adventures in many lands, of his ideas on art generally, of his volunteering and rifle shooting, but the exigencies of space compel us to limit our interview with an eminent artist to this comparatively brief outline of the conversation. When he returns from Japan, we hope to have the pleasure of looking over his sketches.

## HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The twenty-seventh ordinary general meeting of the Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Limited, was held to-day at the offices of the General Managers (Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.), Hon. J. J. Ballantine, president. There were also present—Hon. C. P. Chater, Messrs. S. G. Bird, J. H. Lewis, M. D. Ezekiel, A. Ross (Consulting Committee), J. D. Humphreys, H. Humphreys, C. Palmer, J. B. Mitchell, G. H. Potts, C. L. Tomlinson, K. A. Chinn, J. D. Ballantine, K. Davis, W. H. Deacon, Ho Fook, C. H. Thompson, Lo Cheung Sing, Paul Jordan, J. M. G. Pereira, and Captain G. C. Anderson.

Mr. Burdard read the notice calling the meeting. The Chairman said—Gentlemen, the report and account having been in your hands for three weeks, I will, with your permission, take them as read. Owing to the closing of the Agencies in the United Kingdom, the report has been issued much earlier than has been customary in previous years. The accounts, however, have been slightly different from those of last year, and now show the actual amounts disbursed for losses, charges and commissions. These changes, I feel confident, will be appreciated by the shareholders. I regret that the 1894 account shows such an unfavourable result, due mainly to expenses in connection with the closing of the Agencies in the United Kingdom. The result would have been even worse than this, had it not been for an unexpected gain in exchange on remittances made to London to pay off the large debt balance there. I regret that the balance of the 1894 account is not a credit to the shareholders, but the usual bonus to contributing shareholders and a dividend of \$9.00 per share, as against \$14 for 1893. On the other hand, I am glad to see the 1895 account shows a balance at credit of \$260,722.64, which will doubtless be considered satisfactory by the shareholders. Until all the risks are off on the 31st December next, it is of course impossible to estimate, even approximately, the final result of the year's working, but if losses are not above the average, a favourable account may be expected. As compared with previous years, our Premium Income shows a large decrease, which is accounted for by the closing of Agencies in the United Kingdom, and the curtailment of risks in Calcutta owing to the low rates ruling there. The interest account also shows a falling off caused by the reduction in the rate of Bank Deposits, and the consequent lowering of interest on Mortgages. Several large mortgages were paid off last May, and the money re-invested in Government securities. All the risks were placed on fixed deposit with the Local Banks. The interest received from these two sources is somewhat low, but we consider it desirable for the Company to always have a large amount of Assets which are easily realizable. It is very gratifying to the Consulting Committee and to the General Managers to be able to declare a dividend of over \$50,000 in charges account. This makes the present rate of expenses to premium as moderate as it was 10 years ago. The outlook for the future is brighter than it has been for many years past, for since our last meeting, tariffs materially increased rates, have been agreed to here and at many of our Agencies. The market for our business, in no written on absolutely no terms, and I think it is only a question of time until the Bonus System is done away with altogether. We are adopting a most conservative policy with regard to all our risks at every Agency, and with the view of making a closer working, your Committee decided to send the Acting Secretary on a tour of inspection on Mr. Veitch's return in April. Since the 31st December several fires have occurred here, at Shanghai, Kobe, Yokohama and Singapore, entailing a loss to the Company of \$14,500—nearly all of which fell on the 1895 account. Before moving the adoption of the Report and Accounts, I shall be pleased to answer any question that may be asked.

Mr. J. D. Humphreys—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I have very much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and statement of accounts as presented to you, and I think, after the very full statement that has been made by the Chairman, there is very little for the second to add. But, at the same time, it would be only right to draw attention to two or three points which might perhaps otherwise be overlooked. In respect to the 1894 account and the low dividend for the results of the working of that year, we must expect to suffer in common with everything else. Everything suffered for two or three years, due to the system of, I might say, to use the language that comes first to mind, a sort of outburst business which, I believe, has ceased. I know it has ceased, and I am glad to hear that it will not come again. On its merits, under the able direction of the General Managers, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co., who are proverbial for succeeding in everything they undertake almost, there is no reason to doubt that when these causes of loss are removed, they will do as well as it is possible to do with your business, and that you will have the sympathy and a fair share of the support of the entire community of China. But as to the 1895 account, the results for that year's working are simply phenomenal. It is a magnificent result, and I feel quite sure if it had been possible to

for the articles of association—I looked into the point and saw it was not—I felt quite sure if it had been possible for the General Managers to have recommended an interim dividend for 1895 to supplement the dividend they have just declared for 1894, they would have had much pleasure in doing so. If we do not get it now, we shall get it by and by (applause). We know it is there and that it is all right; and as we have no reason to doubt that all our exceptional losses will result in respect of any risks the Company holds for 1895. I dare say you will agree with me, that you have noticed, when everything is in the boom, there are not so many fires as when things are in a low and depressing condition (applause). There is another circumstance I think which ought to be taken into account, so that it shall not pass by, and that is the circumstance that the General Managers intend to ask Mr. Burdard to go round and inspect every risk the Company has everywhere. It will be a long job, and although we think the shareholders are entitled to be very happy in their General Managers, they also consider themselves very lucky in being served by such reliable gentlemen as Mr. Veitch and Mr. Burdard (applause). With these few remarks I beg to second the adoption of the report and statement of accounts.

Agreed unanimously.

Mr. G. H. Potts proposed and Mr. Tomlinson seconded the confirmation of the appointment of Messrs. M. D. Ezekiel and A. Ross to the vacant seats in the Consulting Committee, and the re-election of Messrs. Chater, Bird, Lewis, Ezekiel and Ross.

Agreed.

Mr. H. Humphreys moved and Mr. Burdard seconded the resolution as auditors of Messrs. Fullerton Henderson and A. Coxon.

Agreed.

Mr. H. Humphreys—The dividend and bonus warrants will be ready on Friday. I thank you for your attendance, gentlemen.

## THE SANITARY BOARD.

The usual fortnightly meeting of the Sanitary Board was held this afternoon. The Hon. F. A. Cooper, Director of Public Works, presided. There were also present—Hon. W. C. H. Hastings, Acting Captain Superintendent of Police; Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Acting Colonial Surgeon; Dr. E. W. Clark, Medical Officer of Health; Mr. N. J. Edin, and Mr. H. McCallum, Secretary. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

NEW BYE-LAW.

The President—in pursuance to notice I have to move—That the Sanitary Board, under the provisions of bye-law No. 22 made under Ordinance 15 of 1884, authorize the Medical Officer of Health and his Staff, for a house-to-house visitation within that portion of the City of Victoria, bounded on the North by the Praya, on the South by the Canal and Bonham Roads, on the East by Wyndham Street, and on the West by the western boundaries of Marine Lot No. 18 and Island Lot No. 23, for a house-to-house visitation within that portion of the City of Victoria, bounded on the North by the Praya, on the South by the Canal and Bonham Roads, on the East by Wyndham Street, and on the West by the western boundaries of Marine Lot No. 18 and Island Lot No. 23, for a house-to-house visitation within that portion of the City of Victoria, bounded on the North by the Praya, on the South by the Canal and Bonham Roads, on the East by Wyndham Street, and on the West by the western boundaries of Marine Lot No. 18 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S.S. *Comet*.....March.  
S.S. *Cassius*.....April.

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S.S. *Federation*.....April.  
S.S. *Comet*.....May.  
S.S. *Cassius*.....June.

*General Agents for China & Japan:*  
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Hongkong, February 24, 1896. 493

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2. Boxholders who desire to send Circulars, Dividend Warrants, Invitations, Cards, &amp;c. of all the same weight, to addresses in Hongkong, or the Ports of China, may deliver them to the Post Office unstamped the postage being then charged to the sender's account. Each batch must consist of at least ten.

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5. No compensation can be paid for mere damage to fragile articles such as portraits, watches, hand-drawn bound books, &amp;c., which reach their destination, although in a broken or deteriorated condition. Nor on account of alleged losses of the Contents of Registered covers which have reached their destination. No account of any article for which the addressee has signed a receipt.

## Misdirected or Delayed Correspondence.

When correspondence has been misdirected or delayed (both of which are liable to happen occasionally) all that the addressee need do is to note on the cover, Sent to —, or Received at 7 p.m., or as the case may be, and forward it, without any other writing whatever, to the Postmaster General. This action should be taken the first time cause of complaint occurs; it is a mistake to let such matters pass for fear of giving trouble, a course which generally gives more trouble in the end.

## Money Orders.

[Office Hours (Sundays and holidays excepted) 10 to 4, Saturdays 10 to 1, but the office open from 10 to 5 on the working day next before any mail for Europe, which leaves at noon.]

[Money orders cannot be issued or cashed on mail mornings, when closing mails for Europe, until noon.]

1.—Money Orders are issued at Hongkong and Shanghai at current rates of exchange on the following Countries and places:—

Canada.

China Ports (Hankow, Canton, Swatow, Amoy, Foochow, Ningpo, Hankow, and Shanghai).

Ceylon.

Hawaii (Sandwich Islands).

British India (including Burma and the Agencies of the Indian Post Office in the Persian Gulf).

Japan Ports (Nagasaki, Osaka, Yokohama, Kobe, Kioto, Yokohama and Hakodate).

New South Wales.

British North Borneo.

Queensland.

Siam (Bangkok only).

South Australia.

Straits Settlements (Singapore, Penang and Malacca).

Tasmania.

United Kingdom.

Victoria.

United States of America.

DRAWN THROUGH LONDON OFFICE.

## Foreign Countries:—

Austria-Hungary.

Belgium.

Bulgaria.

Canton (including Island and Faroe Islands).

Denmark-West Indies.

Egypt.

France, with Algeria.

German Empire (including Heligoland and the Canaries).

Holland.

Italy (with Agencies at Tripoli, Assab and Massowah).

Norway.

Portugal (including Madeira and the Azores).

Rumania.

Sweden.

Switzerland.

Transvaal.

Tunis.

## Foreign Cities and Towns:—

Constantinople.

Smyrna.

Adrianople.

Tangier.

## British Colonies:—

Cyprus.

Fiji Islands.

Gibraltar.

Malta.

Newfoundland.

British Honduras.

Cape Colony.

Gambia.

Gold Coast Colony.

Jamaica.

Mauritius.

Natal.

St. Helena.

Seychelles.

St. Lucia.

St. Vincent.

Tobago.

Trinidad.

Lana.

Tunis Islands.

2.—Orders on the Comptroller drawn through the London Post Office are paid less the following discount for which the remitter should allow. All such Orders must be expressed in British currency:—

For sums not exceeding £2.

Exceeding £2 but not exceeding £5.

Exceeding £5 but not exceeding £10.

Exceeding £10 but not exceeding £20.

Exceeding £20 but not exceeding £50.

Exceeding £50 but not exceeding £100.

Exceeding £100 but not exceeding £200.

Exceeding £200 but not exceeding £500.

Exceeding £500 but not exceeding £1,000.

## HONGKONG MARKET PRICES.

Corrected to Saturday, February 22, 1896.

At 1020 Cash per Dollar Mexican.

At 1020 Cash per Dollar Mexican.

At 1020 Cash per Dollar Mexican.

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## FISH.

Corrected to Saturday, February 22, 1896.

At 1020 Cash per Dollar Mexican.